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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 6

OTHER ISSUES

**Note verbale dated 10 August 2001 from the Permanent Mission
of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the
secretariat of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the statement of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq, entitled "Promotion of dialogue on human rights issues".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq kindly requests the secretariat of the Sub-Commission to circulate this statement* as an official document of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission under agenda item 6, entitled "Other issues".

* The annex is reproduced as received, in Arabic and English only.

Annex

Promotion of dialogue on human rights issues

Mr. Chairman,

Under this item, my country's delegation wishes to make some observations which it regards as basic and which, if taken into account, might help in the implementation of methods and procedures to promote dialogue and enhance the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

During the last 50 years, considerable advances have been made in the formulation of basic human rights standards, to which reference is made in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two International Covenants on Human Rights and numerous international conventions and declarations. However, we are still faced with the problem of procedural standards concerning the manner of implementation of international conventions, since these procedures and working mechanisms should be in conformity with the standards and rules of international law. For example, although the principle of the right of States to sovereignty and non-intervention in their internal affairs is a firmly established principle of international law, this right has been violated repeatedly through the recognition of situations in which interference in internal affairs is permitted on the pretext of the protection of human rights. Accordingly, the endeavours that are being made to formulate human rights standards should include the establishment of mechanisms to apply those standards and should take the following concepts into consideration:

1. Avoidance of selective interpretations of human rights in furtherance of aims and purposes relating to various, sometimes mutually conflicting, international interests, which can be described as a policy of double standards insofar as some international situations are dealt with in an extremely severe manner while other similar situations are handled in a more indulgent and even biased manner.
2. Avoidance of insistence on separating civil and political rights from economic, social and cultural rights, since they constitute an integrated whole. No State should be accused of failing to ensure proper health and nutrition while it is being denied the right to avail itself of its natural resources.
3. Avoidance of any misinterpretation, or erroneous determination of the scope, of the principle of the right to self-determination in an attempt to void that right of its basic content and apply it within the context of the rights of minorities with a view to fragmenting nations and peoples on a religious or ethnic basis in furtherance of political aims and international interests.

With regard to the work of the United Nations human rights organs, emphasis should be placed on the need for the special rapporteurs to play an objective and impartial role and enter into a constructive dialogue with the States concerned since, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/174 entitled "Strengthening of United Nations action in the

human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity", the fundamental task assigned to them is to improve the human rights situation and not to interfere in the internal affairs of the country in which they are examining the situation.

The delegation of Iraq hopes that the distinguished Commission will take these observations into account when considering and examining human rights questions and situations, as this would enhance its credibility and improve the procedures for the achievement of its aim of promoting human rights throughout the world.



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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

**Note verbale dated 10 August 2001 from the Permanent Mission
of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the
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Protection of Human Rights**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the statement of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq, entitled "Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq kindly requests the secretariat of the Sub-Commission to circulate this statement* as an official document of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission under agenda item 4, entitled "Economic, social and cultural rights".

* The annex is reproduced as received, in Arabic and English only.

Annex

**GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE FULL
ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Mr. Chairman,

The worldwide concern that has been shown for the question of globalization during the last 10 years is possibly greater than that shown for any other issue at the international level. The protests staged against globalization in Seattle in 1999 and more recently in Genoa during the summit of the eight industrialized countries highlighted the multifaceted aspect of globalization and its potential impact on a wide range of social, economic, cultural and political relations and, in particular, on the promotion and protection of human rights.

Through the modern liberal policies on which it is based, globalization paints a bleak picture of the future. After a century in which socialist and democratic concepts and the principles of social justice predominated, a countermovement that is currently appearing on the horizon is undermining all the achievements made by the working and middle classes. Increasing unemployment, reduced wages, deteriorating standards of living, the lesser role that Governments are playing in the social security provided by the State, as well as the free rein that is being given to market mechanisms and the increasing disparity in the distribution of income, are among the most outstanding features that will characterize socio-economic life in most countries of the world in the age of globalization.

The challenges posed by globalization include a threat to the cultural identity of peoples through the modern communication media owned by the developed countries which are calling for the globalization of social values. This will obviously undermine the values of peoples by establishing a new system of Western standards based on the sociocultural environment to which they belong. In this way, globalization will eliminate the national borders of States and the cultures of peoples, particularly since it is those who own the modern means of communication who will impose their culture and values on others.

Mr. Chairman,

Human rights cannot develop in politically and economically unstable conditions. Insofar as globalization implies free trade, market liberalization, the removal of obstacles and barriers to the movement of capital, the imposition of structural adjustment programmes and privatization and increasing disparities between the rich and the poor, it will entail a deterioration in the socio-economic situation and the transfer of the economic sovereignty of States to dominant international economic institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and transnational corporations.

Taking an objective view of the present situation, we can say that the only available option to counter the challenges posed by globalization consists in joint endeavours to establish regional groupings that will ensure cooperation among their member States in economic and political fields in order to maintain the international balance and achieve peace, progress and freedom from the dependence and hegemony that globalization advocates.



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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the statement of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq, entitled "Terrorism and human rights".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq kindly requests the secretariat of the Sub-Commission to circulate this statement* as an official document of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission under agenda item 6, entitled "Other Issues".

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Annex

Human rights and terrorism

Mr. Chairman,

Although terrorism is nothing new, having existed throughout history, in our present day and age its scope has widened, transforming it from local into international terrorism.

The present age of increasing globalization is also an age of increasing decadence, which is undermining social solidarity and inducing extremist groups to intensify their opposition and adopt terrorism as a means to further their interests. The far-reaching revolution in communications, as well as the amazing technological developments and trade liberalization, may also have helped to expand the scope of terrorism notwithstanding the numerous international instruments and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights condemning terrorism as an activity detrimental to human rights and fundamental freedoms. Moreover, the endeavours that have been made to combat terrorism have not yet been sufficiently developed at the international and regional levels. The adoption of unilateral and even bilateral measures may not be enough to counter the threat that is facing the entire world and, therefore, international cooperation and coordination are of considerable, even vital, importance in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Iraq's position on the question of terrorism is illustrated by its signature and ratification of many of the conventions prohibiting terrorism. It has condemned all forms of terrorism and the Iraqi Penal Code promulgated in Act No. 111 of 1969 prescribes severe penalties for the perpetrators of criminal acts of terrorism.

Iraq has called for the formulation of a clear and precise definition of international terrorism which would be acceptable to the international community and has declared itself in favour of the holding of an international conference, under United Nations auspices, to study terrorism and the need to ensure that the right of peoples to self-determination and decolonization through legitimate struggle to achieve their freedom and independence is not confused with any form of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

In the face of the international community's concerns and the dangers that terrorism entails, reference must be made to the modern means, some of which are highly technologically advanced, to which some States resort in order to damage and impair the infrastructures and vital utilities of States for political ends, nor should we forget the operations in which political movements are being funded, supported, armed and encouraged to engage in acts of rebellion and sabotage against, or in the territory of, other States in order to subject them to destabilizing pressures.

In this regard, my country's delegation wishes to point out that Iraq is still being targeted by terrorist groups which are receiving financial and political support from States claiming to be promoters of human rights and democracy, and particularly from the United States of America. It is noteworthy that, in 1998, the United States Congress passed the so-called "Iraq Liberation Act" under which \$97 million were allocated to fund a group of mercenaries, hirelings of the United States intelligence services, so that they could carry out acts of terrorism and sabotage inside Iraq with a view to disrupting its order and security and killing its innocent civilians.

United States and British aircraft are carrying out daily raids and acts of aggression on the pretext of protecting the so-called "air exclusion zones" in northern and southern Iraq where they are targeting peaceful residential areas and destroying civilian infrastructures. As a result of this aerial bombardment of civilian areas, more than 350,000 civilians, mostly women, children and aged persons, have been killed and thousands injured.

The deplorable international terrorism to which the people of Iraq are being subjected by the United States of America and the United Kingdom merits condemnation and a demand for its immediate cessation since it is undermining the international endeavours and resolutions seeking to eliminate the phenomenon of terrorism.

Thank you.



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PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION

**Letter dated 14 August 2001 from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent
Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to
the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the
Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights**

I refer to the statement made by the delegation of Mauritius on 14 August 2001 to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (under item 5 of the agenda) which *inter alia* called into question British sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory.

For the record, the Government of the United Kingdom remains convinced of its sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory, which was ceded to it by France in 1814.

Please could you arrange for this letter to be circulated as an official document of the United Nations under agenda item 5 of the Sub-Commission's agenda.

(Signed) Guy WARRINGTON
Chargé d'Affaires



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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 5

PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION

**Letter dated 15 August 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Mauritius to
the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the
Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights**

I refer to the letter dated 14 August 2001 addressed to you by the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva in connection with the statement made by the Mauritius delegation on 14 August 2001 and wish to bring the following to your kind attention and for record purposes:

The Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, has always been an integral part of the territory of Mauritius. The Chagos Archipelago was unlawfully excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius, prior to Mauritius being granted its independence. This excision was done in violation of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and United Nations resolutions 2066 (XX), 2232 (XXI), and 2357 (XXII). Ever since, the Government of Mauritius has consistently pressed the United Kingdom Government both bilaterally and internationally for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.

Mauritius has never acquiesced in the creation of the so-called British Indian Ocean Territory, which it does not recognize or accept.

Mauritius will continue to press for the return of the Chagos Archipelago in the appropriate forums and would not accept any action which would undermine the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago.

We would appreciate if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as an official document of the United Nations under item 5 of the Sub-Commission's agenda.

(Signed): U.D. CANABADY
Deputy Permanent Representative
